

Attorney Docket No. B0052-US01
Amdt. Dated 12/18/2003
Reply to 1st Office Action of 09/22/2003

Remarks/Arguments

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-5 and 15-20. Claims 2 and 12 have been amended solely to correct typographical errors. In addition to these allowed claims, Claims 10-14 have been objected to as dependent from a rejected base claim, Claim 6, but are otherwise allowable. Claim 10 has been re-written in independent form, incorporating the limitations of Claim 6. Claims 10-14 are, therefore, believed to be in allowable form. Claims 7 and 8 have been made dependent from claim 10 and are deemed allowable with their parent claim. Claim 6 has been canceled.

Claim 9 has been amended to distinguish over Sinn et al. (US 3,987,961). The bag set of claim 9 now explicitly provides that the multi-way connector is configured to pass diluting fluid into sources of blood concentrate products and then to allow the combined blood concentrate products and diluting fluid to flow into the ring bag. It appears that the diluting solution of Simms in bottle 37 flows into a central compartment 3, and not into the blood source bags 33, 34, which also empty into the central compartment 3. See, e.g., Simms, column 4, lines 27-62. Simms does not provide structure to perform the functions specified in amended Claim 9. It is believed, therefore, that Claim 9 distinguishes over the art and should be allowed.

All the claims pending in the case, Claims 1-5 and 7-15, being in condition for allowance, the examiner's reconsideration of the case and early allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited. A certified copy of the priority document, Swedish patent application 9903841-6 and translation are filed herewith.

In respect to the Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§119(b) for this application, Applicants will file a certified copy of the foreign application with a verified English translation via the U.S. Postal Service's Express Mail service on the same day as this Amendment and Response is filed.

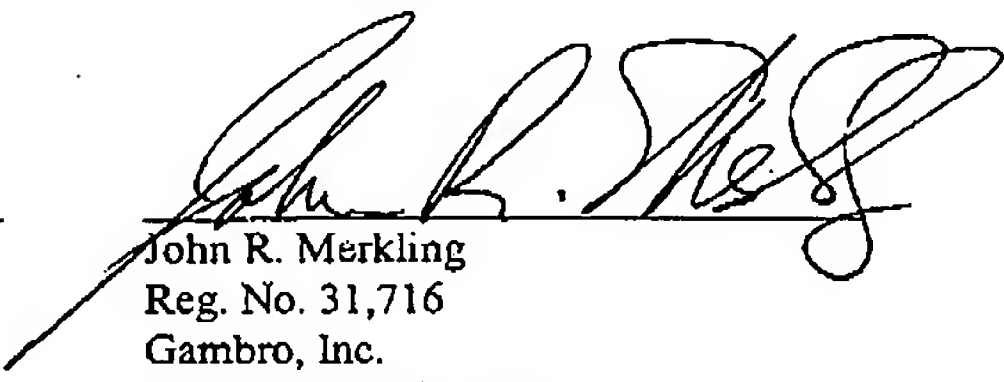
It is believed that no fee for filing this Amendment and Response is necessary. If this is incorrect and any fee is determined to be necessary, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 03-2316.

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If prosecution can be expedited in any fashion by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the below-printed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

18 Dec 2003
Dated



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